## CLAIMS

Now, therefore, at least the following is claimed:

1      1.      A system for automatically cropping graphical images, comprising:

2      memory for storing digital data that defines a graphical image;

3      an object detector configured to analyze said digital data and to automatically

4      identify a portion of said digital data that defines an image of an object within said

5      graphical image; and

6      an image cropper configured to automatically crop said digital data based on a

7      position of said object image within said graphical image, said image cropper

8      configured to determine said position of said object image within said graphical image

9      based on said portion automatically identified by said object detector.


1      2.      The system of claim 1, wherein said object image is an image of a

2      person's face, and wherein said object detector is configured to search said digital data

3      for portions that define facial images.


1      3.      The system of claim 1, wherein said image cropper is configured to

2      crop said digital data based on a size of said object image.


1      4.      The system of claim 1, wherein said image cropper is configured to

2      crop said digital data based on said position of said object image such that said object

3      image is substantially centered between two edges of said graphical image.

1    5.    The system of claim 1, wherein said image cropper is configured to

2    crop said digital data based on said position of said object image such that said portion

3    is removed from said digital data that defines said graphical image.

1    6.    The system of claim 1, further comprising:

2        an input device for receiving an input from a user; and

3        a system manager configured to enable said image cropper based on said user

4    input.

1    7.    The system of claim 1, further comprising an image capturing device

2    configured to receive an image of a scene and to produce said digital data based on

3    said image received by said image capturing device.

1    8.    The system of claim 7, wherein said image capturing device includes a

2    lens for receiving said image of said scene and an image converter for producing said

3    digital data based on said image of said scene.

1    9.    A system for automatically cropping graphical images, comprising:

2        memory for storing digital data that defines a graphical image;

3        means for automatically identifying a portion of said digital data that defines

4    an image of an object within said graphical image; and

5        means for automatically cropping said digital data based on a position of said

6    object image within said graphical image, said cropping means configured to

7    determine said position of said object image within said graphical image based on said

8    portion automatically identified by said identifying means.

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1    10.    The system of claim 9, wherein said object image is an image of a

2    person's face, and wherein said identifying means is configured to search said digital

3    data for portions that define facial images.


1    11.    The system of claim 9, wherein said cropping means is configured to

2    crop said digital data based on a size of said object image.


1    12.    The system of claim 9, wherein said cropping means crops said digital

2    data based on said position of said object image such that said object image is

3    substantially centered between two edges of said graphical image.


1    13.    The system of claim 9, wherein said cropping means crops said digital

2    data based on said position of said object image such that said portion is removed

3    from said digital data that defines said graphical image.


1    14.    The system of claim 9, further comprising:

2    means for receiving an input from a user; and

3    means for enabling said cropping means based on said user input.


1    15.    The system of claim 9, further comprising a means for receiving an

2    image of a scene and for producing said digital data based on said image received by

3    said receiving means.

1  16.  A method for automatically cropping graphical images, comprising the

2  steps of:

3      storing digital data that defines a graphical image;

4      automatically searching said digital data for a portion of said digital data that

5  defines an image of a particular object;

6      identifying said portion based on said searching step;

7      determining, based on said identified portion, a position of said object image

8  within said graphical image; and

9      automatically cropping said digital data based on said position of said object

10  image.


1  17.  The method of claim 16, wherein said particular object is a person's

2  face.


1  18.  The method of claim 16, wherein said cropping step is further based on

2  a size of said object image.


1  19.  The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of:

2      substantially centering said object image between two edges of said graphical

3  image via said cropping step.


1  20.  The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of:

2      removing, via said cropping step, said portion from said digital data that

3  defines said graphical image.

1    21.    The method of claim 16, wherein said searching and cropping steps are

2    automatically performed in response to said storing step.


1    22.    The method of claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

2    receiving an input from a user; and

3    enabling said cropping step based on said user input.